

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 7 with the following:

3  
6. 5/11/07

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

This application is a Divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/262,064 filed on March 4, 1999, hereby incorporated by reference as to its entirety. The present invention relates to a communication method and apparatus, and in particular a method and apparatus for mobile satellite communication which provides a short processing delay, a high coding gain and efficient use of bandwidth.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 7 with the following:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Voice, fax and data communication capabilities are available through mobile satellite communication systems. For example, the Inmarsat-M™ and Inmarsat mini-M™ systems support a data rate of 2.4 kbit/s, while the Inmarsat-B™ system provides data rates of up to 16 kbit/s. However, in terrestrial communications data rates of 28.8 kbit/s are commonly used over a PSTN under the ITU V.34 standard, and data rates of 56 or 64 kbit/s per channel are available over ISDN. Many internet-based and conferencing applications require the data rates available over terrestrial networks. Such applications cannot be used satisfactorily on conventional mobile satellite terminals.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 23 with the following:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a satellite communications system in which data can be transmitted by any one of a plurality of different data rates, selected such that each of said data rates can be achieved by dividing a clock rate by only small